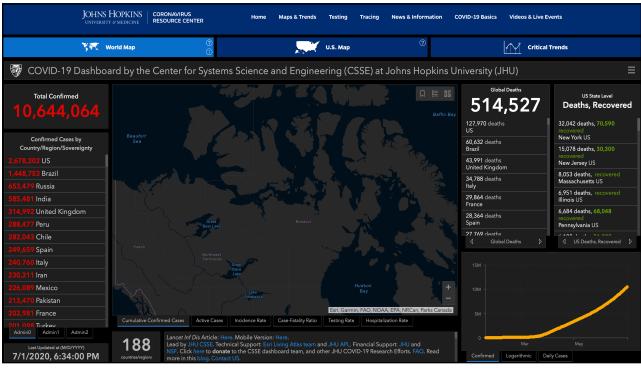
COVID-19: Economic Implications and Policy Response

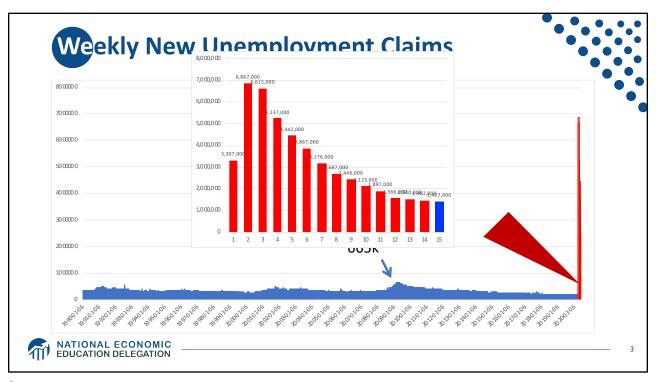
Scott L. Baier
Clemson University
and
National Economic Education Delegation

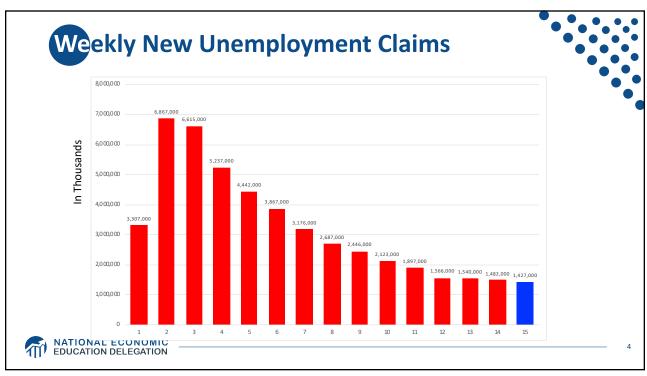


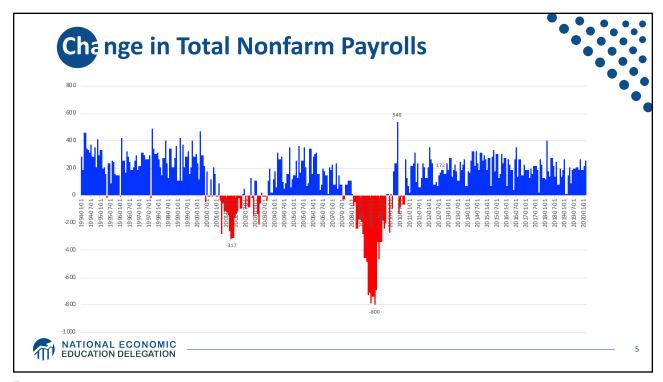
1

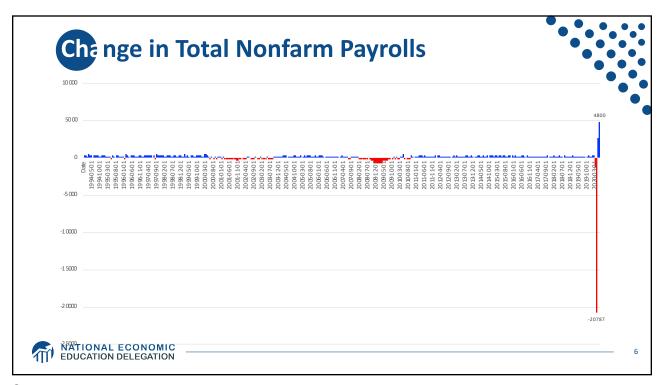


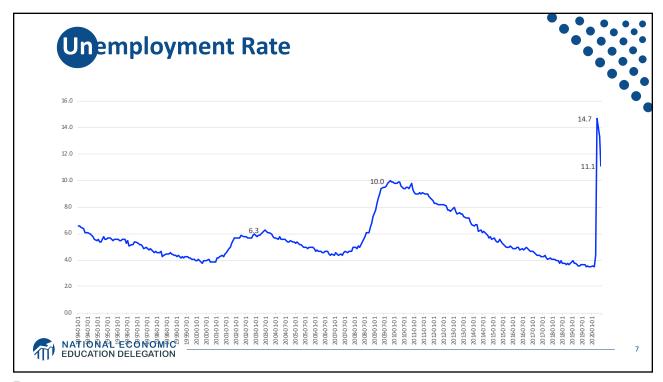
2

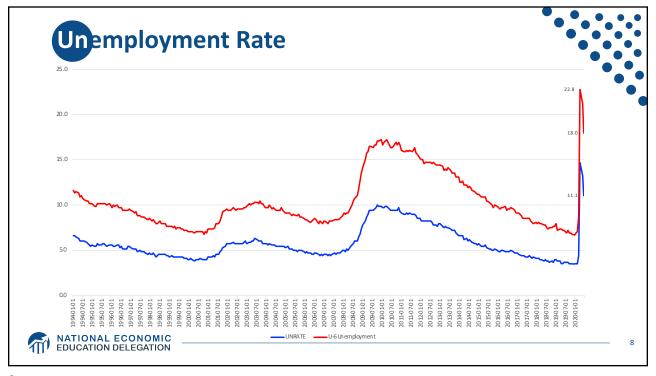


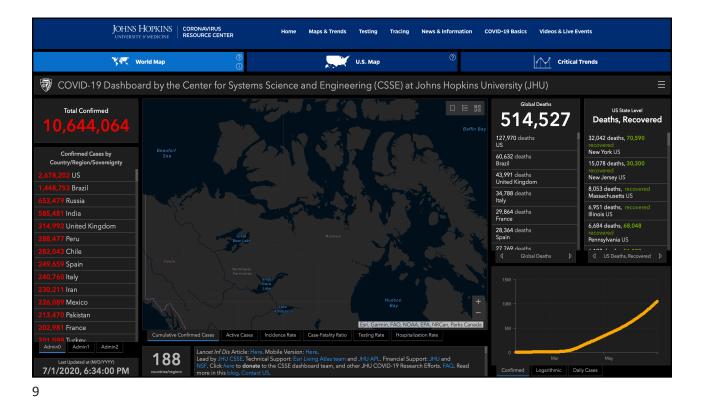


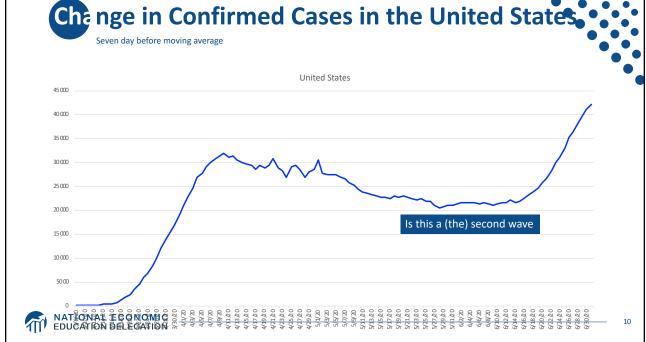


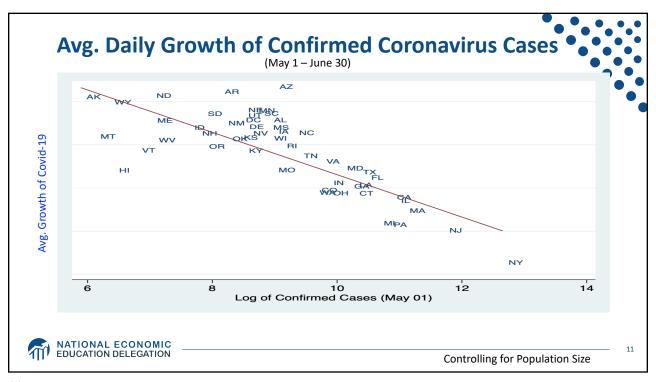


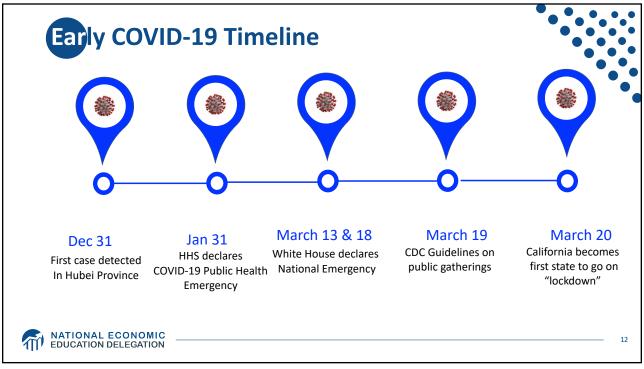


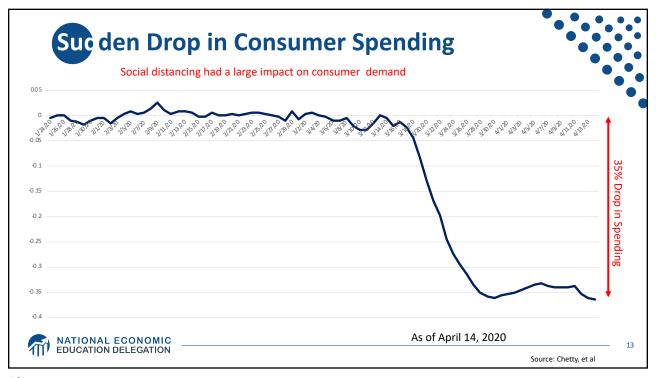


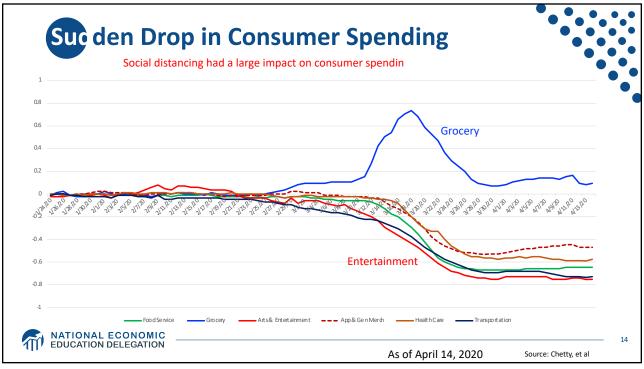


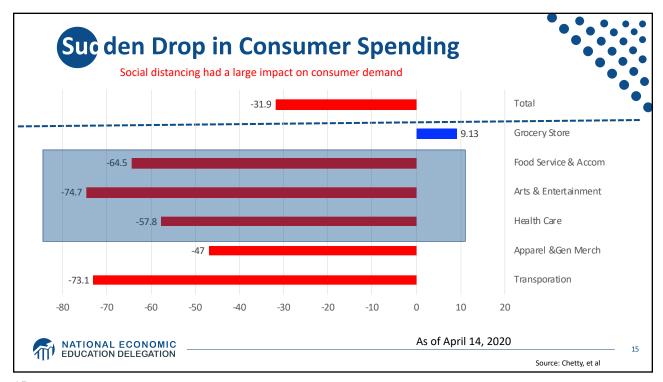


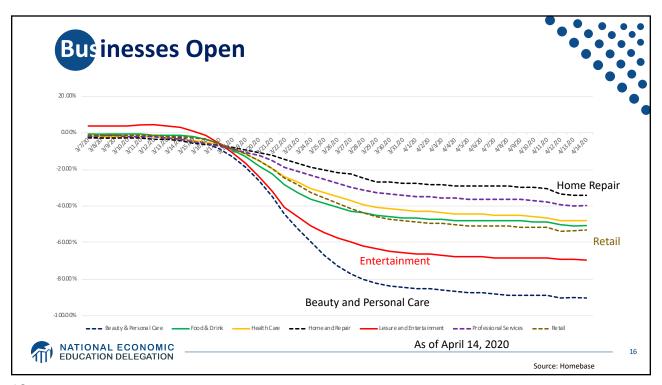


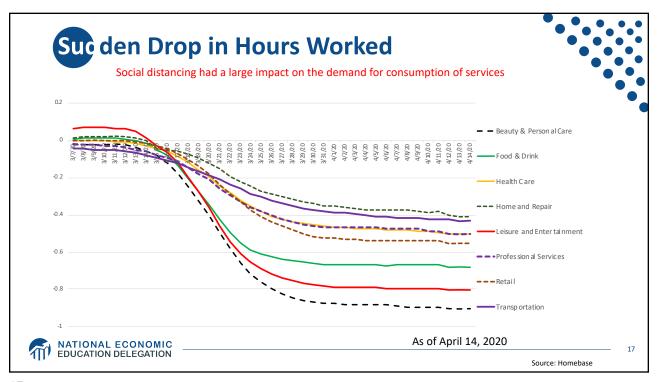


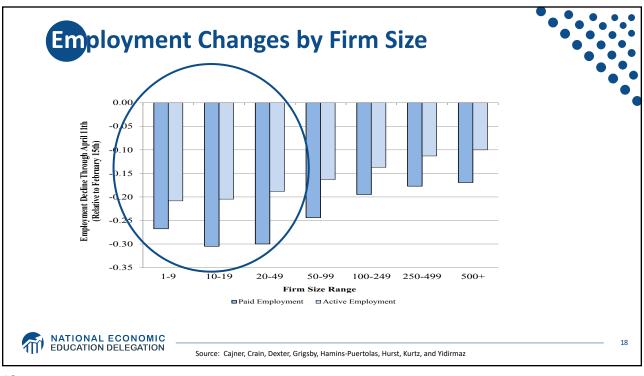


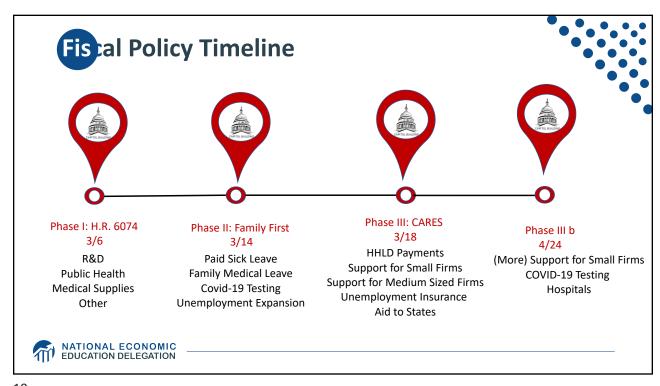










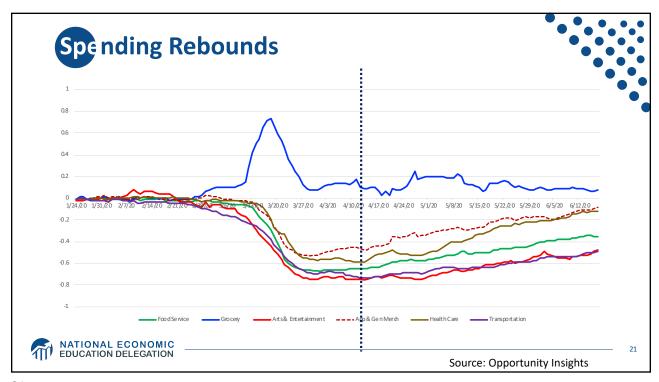


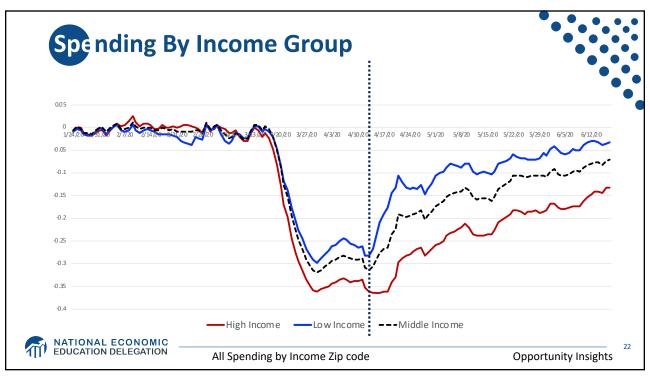
Fiscal Response: CARES Act (H.R. 748)

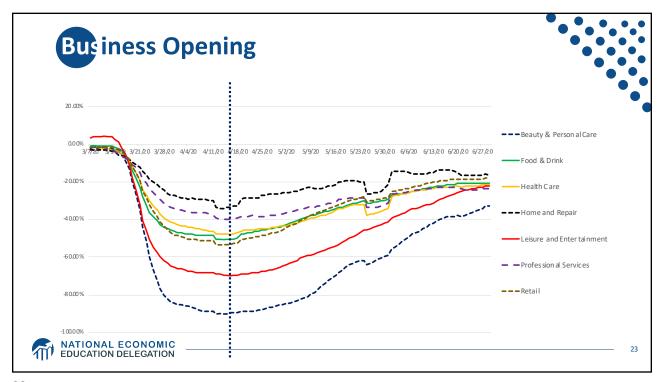
- Direct payment to households \$1,200 for every adult and \$500 for every child – similar to the 2008 rebate but purpose is different.
- Small business loans (Paycheck Protection Program)-- \$350 billion
 - <500 employees and designed to cover six (6) weeks of payroll.
- Economic Stabilization Fund (Main Street Lending Program) \$500bn
 - for medium sized firms,
 - state and local municipalities, and
 - passenger and cargo air carriers, and firms maintaining national security.
- Expand unemployment benefits

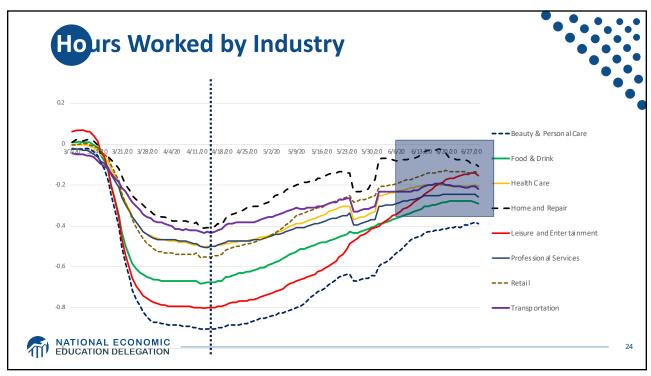


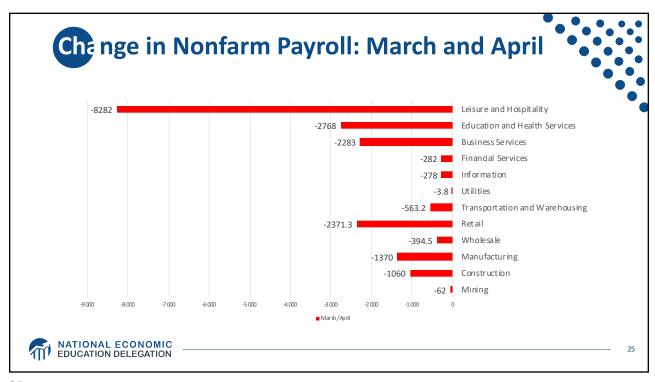
20

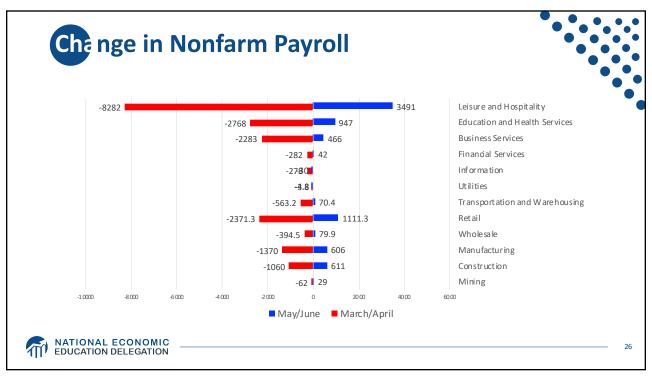


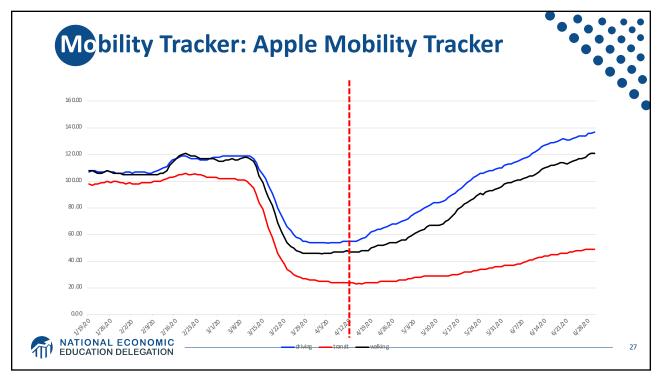


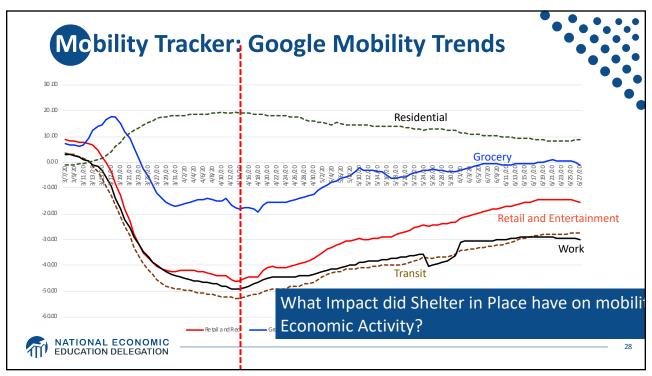


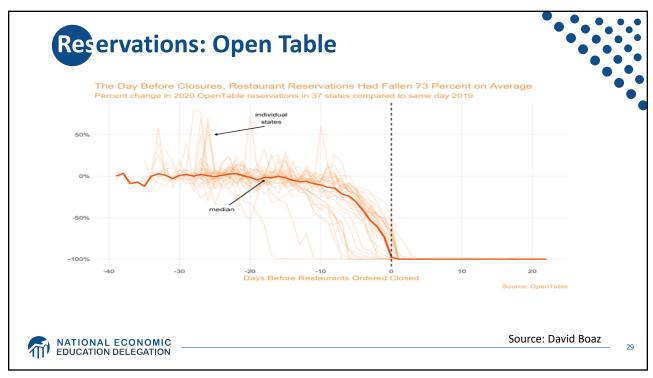


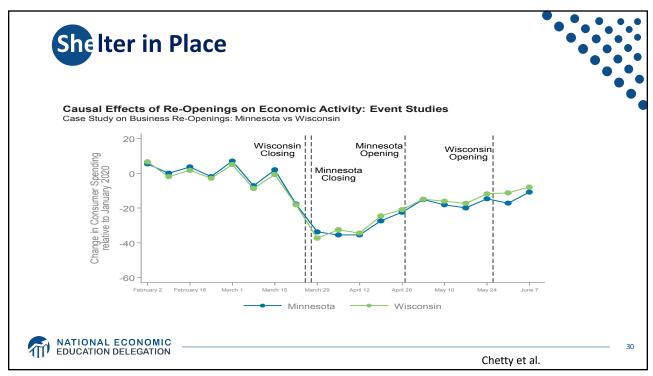




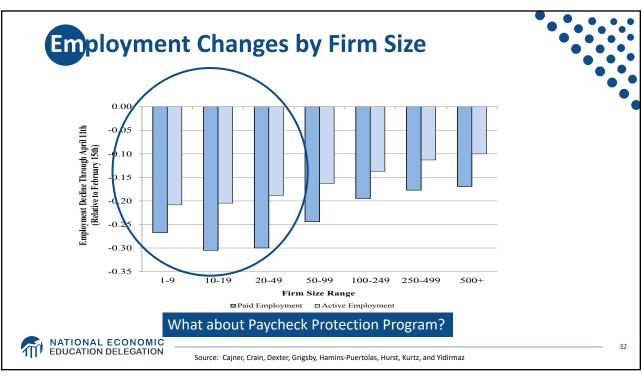




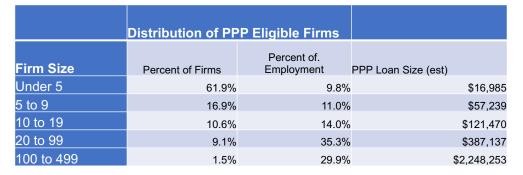












But Is It Enough? Loans: are for 8 weeks



33

33

PPP Loan Major Recipients By Industry

Industry	Amount (Billions)	Percent of Loans
Construction	\$44.9	13.1
Professional, Technical and Scientific, Services	\$43.3	12.7
Manufacturing	\$40.9	12.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$39.9	11.7
Accommodation and Food Service	\$30.5	8.9
Retail Trade	\$29.4	8.6

These seven (7) industries account for nearly 75% of the PPP loans

\$19.5

5.7



Wholesale Trade

3

Paycheck Protection Program: Comparison Impact of Paycheck Protection Program on Hours Worked Change in Hours Worked by Decile of Firm Size, All Industries Excl. Food Services 0% % in Total Earnings vs. Feb. -10% -20% -30% 3rd Decile: ~30 Employees Change i -40% 4th Decile: ~40 Employees 5th Decile: ~100 Employees 6th Decile: ~1,300 Employees [Ineligib Mar 10 Feb 25 Mar 24 Apr 21 Feb 11 May 5 May 19 Jun 2 NATIONAL ECONOMIC 35 EDUCATION DELEGATION Source Chetty et al

35

Takeaways

- It appears that the direct payments to households did have an impact on boosting expenditures especially for low income households.
- It appears that the sudden drop in consumer spending and mobility had less to do with "shelter in place orders" and "lockdowns".
- In terms of mobility: while the impact of lockdowns was relatively small (7 percentage points of the 60 percentage point drop in foot traffic), it did have a large impact on certain types of establishments—bars and restaurants.
- Suggestions for the next round of fiscal policies?
- State and Local governments need to respond to their situation.
- Paycheck Protection Program impact ???



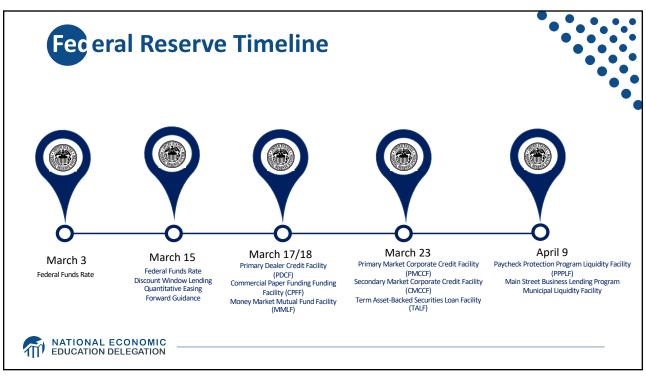
36

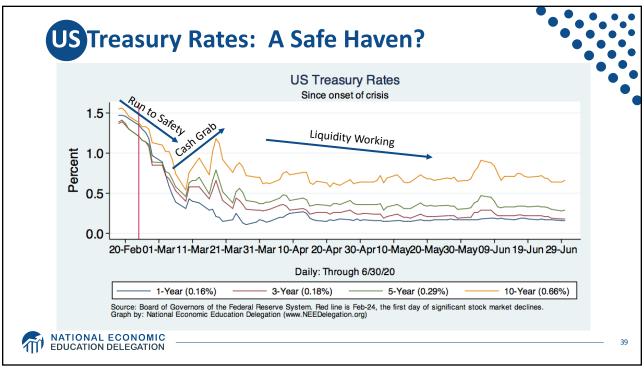
Looking Forward: Thoughts on Fiscal Policy

- uly
- Next round of fiscal policy likely to be implemented mid to late July depending on the economic conditions.
- PPP funds will run out in mid July. Will the economy have recovered enough to suggest small business will not need support?
- Will the next round of fiscal policy include additional payments for households?
- What will be done for state and local governments?
- Unemployment benefits will begin to run out by the end of July? Will there be support for the additional \$600 per week.
- Will the next round of fiscal policy involve a return to work bonus? How could it be structured?



37





Federal Reserve: Support Corporations and Business

- Created the **Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility (PMCF)** allows the Fed to lend directly to corporations by buying new bond issuances and providing loans (3/17).
- Instituted the **Commercial Paper Funding Facility (CPFF)** the Fed can purchase commercial paper from firms at a given interest rate effectively, the Fed is lending directly to firms. (3/17)
- Main Street (Expanded) Loan Facility: Through the CARES Act these two programs offer four-year loans to US businesses with up to 10,000 employees or revenues less than \$2.5 billion. (4/9)
- Paycheck Protection Program Facility: Facilitates loans under the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program



40

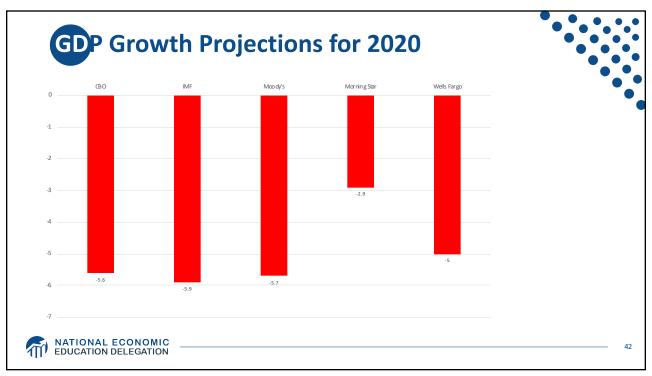
Looking Forward: Thought on the Fed's Projections

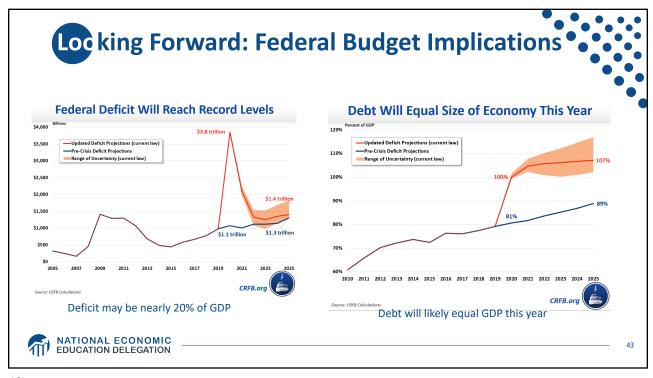
- The Fed thinks the recovery will be slow -- this is the reason Fed Chair Powell stated that the
 "we are not even thinking about thinking about raising interest rates." This was one of the
 reasons why financial markets fell so much on 6/11.
- Federal Reserve Board (median) projections indicate that they think the GDP growth will only be negative this year and the growth will be relatively high in 2021.
- The Fed's range for growth is wide I think this represents the Fed's uncertainty about the health implications.
- While unemployment is expected to decline below 10 percent,, the Fed expects unemployment to be above the longer run rate of 4.1 percent.
- The Fed thinks the economy is still structurally sound; otherwise, they would have increased the longer run rate of unemployment above 4.1 percent.
- S. Louis Federal Reserve President James Bullard expressed concerns of a financial crisis if the coronavirus outbreak continues and leads to bankruptcies.



41

41





Cor clusion

- Through March and April "....the economy is in the equivalent of a medically induced coma..." (P. Krugman, NYTimes, 4/16).
- Given the increase in new cases will we need to go back into a medically induced coma again this summer.
- COVID-19 is health crisis that has macroeconomic implications.
- GDP will likely contract between 5.0 and 6.0 percent this year.
- Positive economic growth may return in 2021 as long as there are preventative medicines and treatments.
- How do we plan for the next pandemic?



44



Gor ernment Response: This Shock is Differen

- This economic shock is a "health shock" with externalities that have (large) macroeconomic consequences.
- The fiscal and monetary response is not one where we can or should think about Keynesian versus Classical Solutions.
- Response should be to target the cause of the problem and provide income support for individuals and some financial support for firms.
 - Cause of the problem is COVID-19 and its contagion.
 - Social distancing reducing income and production
 - (We hope) The economic shock is not structural and on the "other side" structurally things will be the same; therefore, we would like to preserve employment-employer matches.



45



Gor ernment Response: Fiscal Response



- Respond to the impacted sector(s) health crisis,
- Provide income support for the lower income and most vulnerable,
- Provide support to maintain employer employee matches, and
- Provide support for the sectors that are most exposed to the shock.



Federal Reserve: Standard Operations



- Federal Funds Rate: The Federal Reserve lowered the targeted Federal funds rate on March 3 and again on March 15 moving the targeted Federal Funds rate to zero.
- **Discount Window Lending:** Lowered the interest rate it charges banks to borrow from 1.75% to 0.25%.
- **Reserve Requirement:** Lowered the reserve requirement to zero.
- **Forward Guidance:** Honed during the Great Recession the Fed tries to set market expectations on the time path of interest rates over time.



47

47

Federal Reserve: Ensure Financial Market Stability

- In mid-March, Treasury and Mortgage Backed Securities markets began behaving irregularly as the demand for liquidity increased.
 - Securities Purchases (Quantitative Easing): Fed Response: purchase treasuries and mortgage backed securities (3/15).
 - Re-launched the **Primary Dealer Credit Facility (PDCF)** in order "smooth market functioning and facilitate the availability of credit to businesses and households (3/17).
 - Re-instituted the Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility (MMLF) to "assist money market mutual funds in meeting demands for redemptions by households and investors enhancing overall market function and credit provision to the broader economy."
 - Increased liquidity in the repo market. The repo market is where firms borrow and lend cash and short-term securities. The Fed was offering \$100 billion in overnight loans and \$20 billion in two-week loans.
 - $_{\odot}\,$ The Fed increased the offerings to \$1 trillion (from \$100 bn) in overnight repos, and
 - o \$500 billion in one month and three-month repos (from \$20bn 2/wks).



48

Federal Reserve: Support Corporations and Business

- Created the Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility (PMCF) allows the Fed to lend directly to corporations by buying new bond issuances and providing loans (3/17).
- Instituted the **Commercial Paper Funding Facility (CPFF)** the Fed can purchase commercial paper from firms at a given interest rate effectively, the Fed is lending directly to firms. (3/17)
- Main Street (Expanded) Loan Facility: Through the CARES Act these two programs offer four-year loans to US businesses with up to 10,000 employees or revenues less than \$2.5 billion. (4/9)
- Paycheck Protection Program Facility: Facilitates loans under the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program



49

49

Federal Reserve: Other Support



 Re-instituted Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF) by which the Fed lends to holders of asset backed securities that are collateralized by new loans. Extended this program to include existing commercial mortgagebacked securities and newly issued collateralized debt obligations.

Support for States and Municipalities

- The municipal bond market exhibited signs of stress in March it was becoming increasingly hard to borrow in the Muni-market. The Fed created the Municipal Lending Facility to lend directly to state and local governments.
- Also expanded eligible collateral to include municipal debt in the MMLF and CPFF market.



50

